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UNCLAS YEREVAN 002635

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR G/TIP, DRL AND EUR/CACEN

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ELAB](#) [OA](#) [AM](#) [KTIP](#)

SUBJECT: GOAM GETS QUOTAS FROM QATAR FOR LABOR
MIGRATION

¶1. The Department on Migration and Refugees (DMR) has finished work with the Government of Qatar to create a legal framework for Armenians working in Qatar. In the agreement (scheduled to be signed in the near future) the Government of Qatar has provided quotas for the workers in the following fields: computer networks administration, database administration, programming, program analysis and nursing. According to the DMR, Qatar will take care of all expenses, including those for transportation. The DMR has already started advertising this opportunity and collecting applications.

¶2. Noting the large-scale illegal or semi-legal migration of Armenian workers, and noting the problem with trafficking exacerbated by labor migration problems, the DMR is taking considerable pride in the new agreement. Lyalya Aslanyan, DMR Deputy Head, expressed the hope that this agreement with Qatar will serve as a precedent for cooperation with other countries, and will regularize labor migration. In addition to this recent agreement, Ms. Aslanyan also noted a draft law "On Organization of External Labor Migration," which the DMR has been working on for more than four years. The DMR has already presented this draft to GOAM and expects that the National Assembly will adopt it either by the end of 2004 or in early ¶2005.

EVANS